City of Lafayette Staff Report

For:	City Council
By:	Tony Coe, Engineering Services Manager
Date Written:	May 19, 2009
Meeting Date:	May 26, 2009
Subject:	Mt. Diablo Boulevard Pathway- Extension from Lafayette Reservoir to El Nido Ranch Road

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Introduction

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) previously agreed to fund the installation of a section of pathway on the south side of Mt. Diablo Boulevard between Village Center and the Lafayette Reservoir. This project went through public review and was approved for construction by the City Council in April 2008. Under the terms of an agreement signed in July 2008, Lafayette staff would assume management of environmental clearance, design, and construction work, and EBMUD would reimburse the costs for said work up to $350,000.

The City Council awarded a contract to HSR in March 2009 for roughly $200,000 to construct the project. Accounting for related construction administration and quality control costs, staff projected a $52,000 project budget surplus at the time of award. Under our agreement with EBMUD there is no reimbursement for unspent budget. Meanwhile the low bid prices received present an opportunity to extend the approved design further west to connect to an existing sidewalk that currently terminates about 300 feet east of El Nido Ranch Road. Staff discussed this matter with EBMUD and just recently obtained concurrence for this extension. Given that the decision to proceed is time-sensitive, and that the extra work could be accomplished essentially within the established budget, the City Manager has authorized the work to proceed while providing this status update to the City Council.

Discussion

As a condition to contribute funding for the proposed extension, EBMUD originally wanted the City to commit to abandoning the existing Walter Costa Trail at some point in the future, if and when District plans for the treatment plant require it. The trail apparently exists within a revocable easement from the District and terminates on the District's treatment plant property. The thought is that the extension would provide a safe alternative access to the reservoir because users coming from the west and north of Mt. Diablo Boulevard could use a marked cross-walk at El Nido Ranch Road. Currently the entrance of the reservoir is at a mid-block location that is not conducive to a crosswalk, and people using the Walter Costa Trail jaywalk across to the reservoir.

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Staff indicated that such a formal commitment would require a public process, and there would be insufficient time for such a process given how we need to coordinate this extension with the currently on-going construction. However, staff agrees that a parallel alternate route on the south side of Mt. Diablo Boulevard can only strengthen any future proposal to relocate or abandon the Walter Costa Trail to accommodate improvements by the District. If the extension can be built now, users may recognize it as a safer alternative and gradually shift their travel patterns. Given where the trail currently terminates, it is not inconceivable that the trail may eventually abandon itself via user attrition. Given also that the proposed extension could potentially fit under the funds already intended to be spent for the project, staff encouraged the District to view the extension as a worthwhile investment even though staff can make no guarantees at this time on how future District proposals regarding the trail may be received. In an abundance of cooperation, District staff agreed.

Staff's proposal is to extend the path by roughly 1,100 feet toward El Nido Ranch Road, applying the same design concept that was previously approved. The design consists of concrete curb and gutter with a tinted, porous concrete surface about seven to eight feet wide. The existing on-street bike lane will be maintained at 5.5 feet wide. The goal was to maintain the road cross-section generally within the existing paved limits. This work could be accomplished by a change order to the existing contract with HSR, who has submitted a cost proposal of $128,000. Staff did consider the possibility of bidding the extension as an entirely separate contract. Based on our analysis of the contractor's cost proposal, staff believes that this will not yield any substantive savings, and therefore does not recommend doing so.

As mentioned previously, staff currently projects a surplus of $52,000 that could partially fund the extension. While the City's agreement with EBMUD allows reimbursement of project management costs, the City could choose to only seek reimbursement for construction "hard" costs. This would allow all but $15,000 of the cost of the extension to be covered under the reimbursement agreement. Staff proposes to cover the gap with a combination of contingency funds from other on-going capital projects and accumulated walkways development fees, which currently total $8,000.

Fiscal Impact

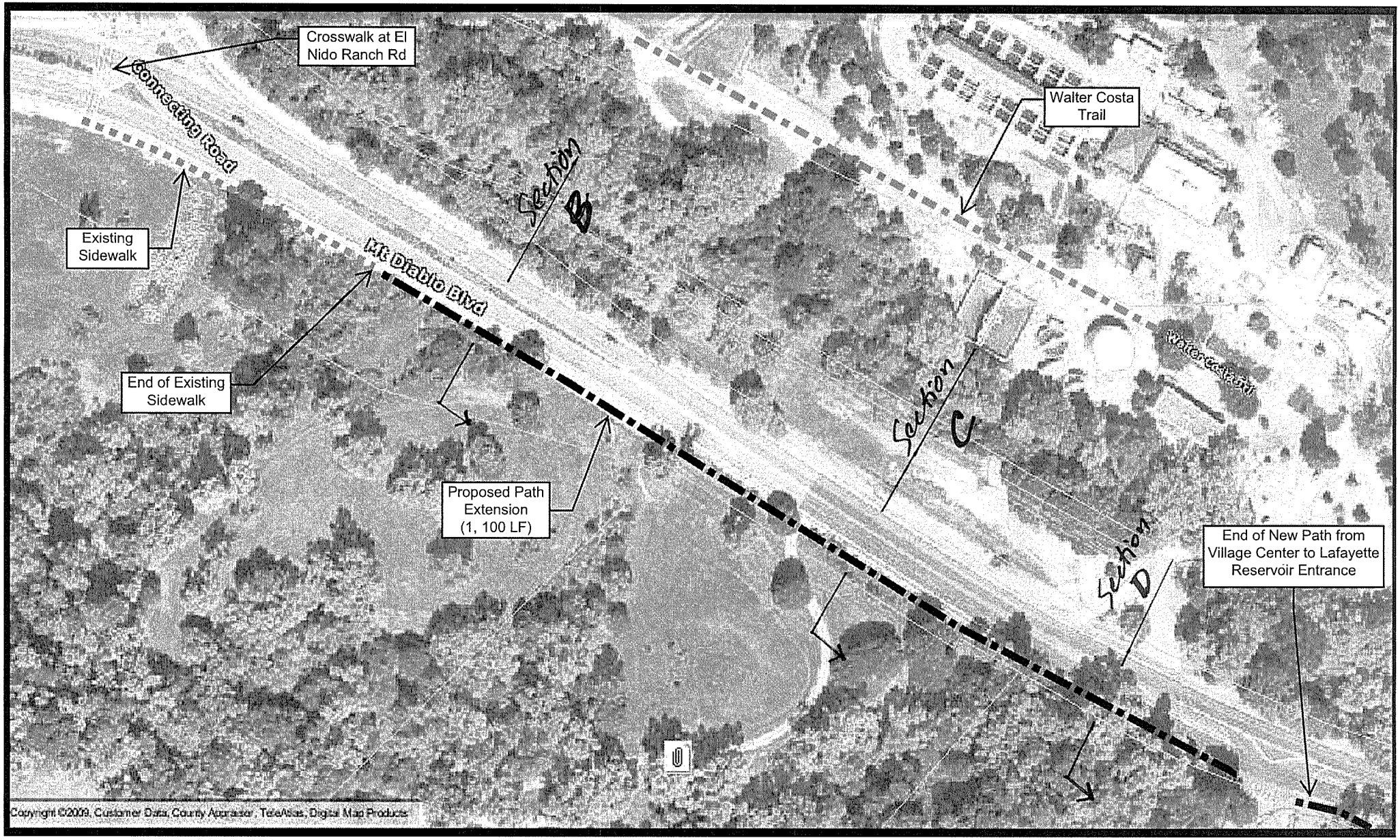
Construction costs for the entire pathway, including the extension would be mostly reimbursable by EBMUD. FY 2009 capital project contingencies and accumulated walkways development fees may fill a $15,000 gap to fully fund the extension. Project management costs would be considered City's in-kind contribution to the project.

Recommendation

City Council confirms the City Manager's direction to proceed with construction of the path extension.

Attachments

Concept Plan and Typical Sections


Crosswalk at El Nido Ranch Rd
Connecting Road
Existing Sidewalk
Mt Diablo Blvd
End of Existing Sidewalk
Proposed Path Extension (1, 100 LF)
Section B
Section C
Section D
Walter Costa Trail
Waterfall
End of New Path from Village Center to Lafayette Reservoir Entrance
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Mt. Diablo Blvd. Pathway– Reservoir to El Nido Ranch Rd.

LAFAYETTE

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No Scale

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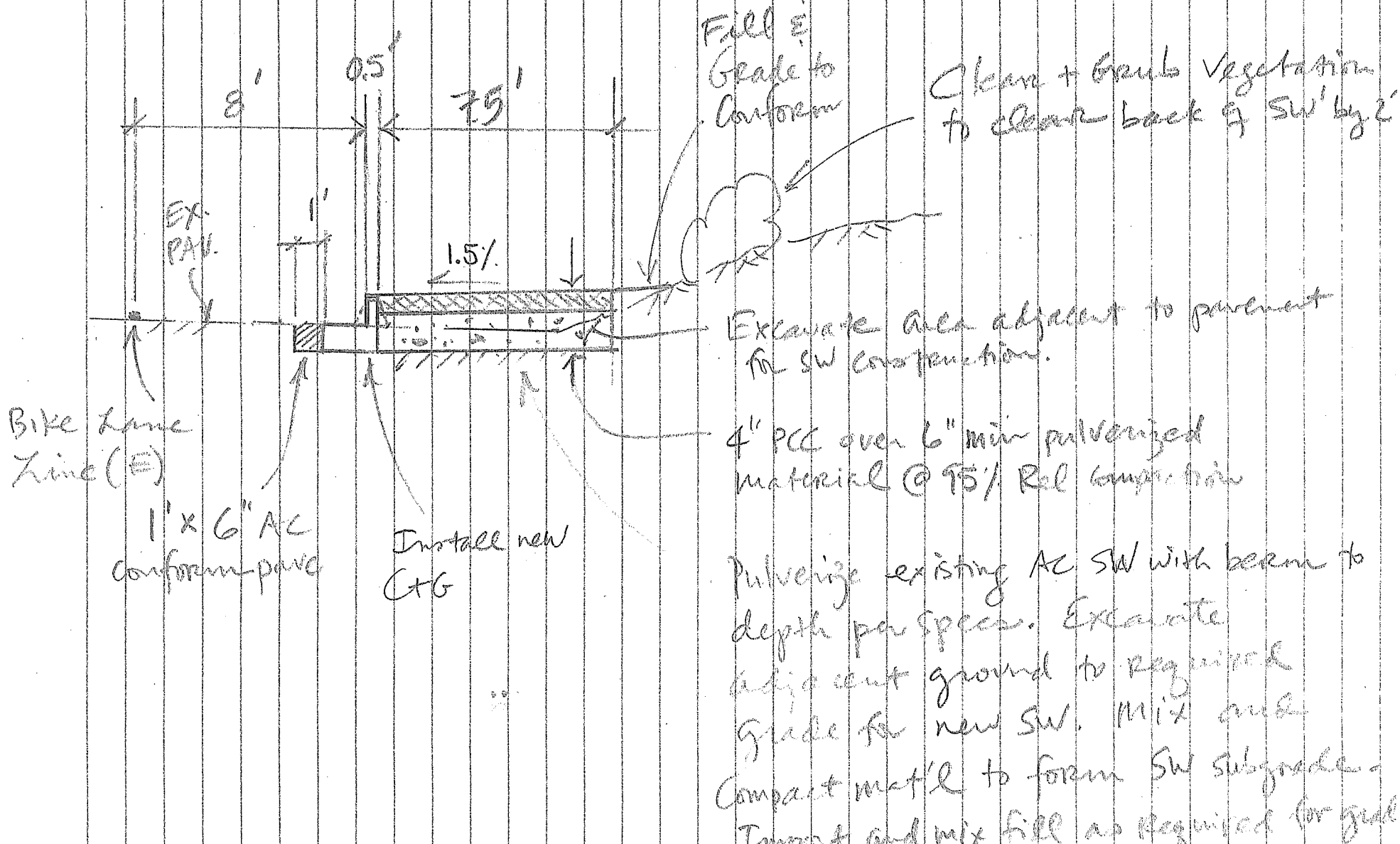
Mt. Diablo Blvd Sidewalk

Typical Section B (42+77± to 46+00±)

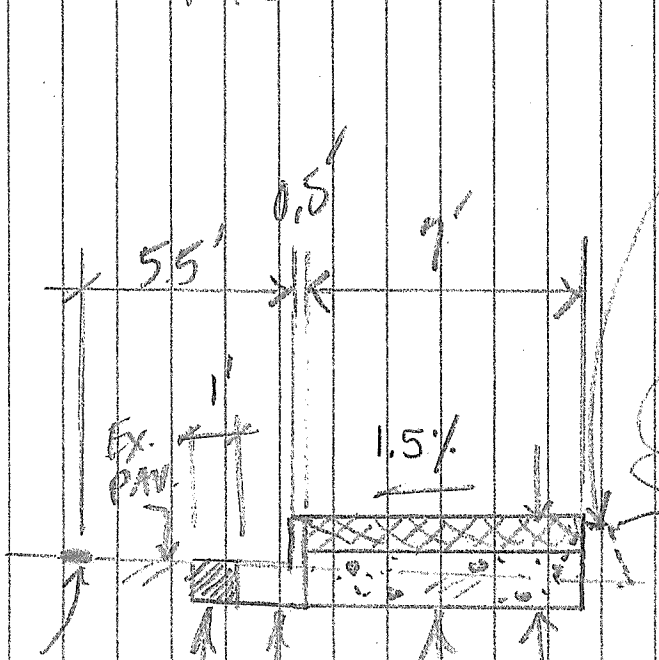
N.T.S.


8'
0.5'
7.5'
1'
EX. PAV.
1.5%
Fill & Grade to Conform
Clean + Grub Vegetation to clear back of SW by 2'
Excavate area adjacent to pavement for SW construction.
4" PCC over 6" min pulverized material @ 95% Rel Compaction
Bike Lane Line (E)
1' x 6" AC conform pave
Install new C+G
Pulverize existing AC SW with berm to depth per spec. Excavate adjacent ground to required grade for new SW. Mix and compact mat'l to form SW subgrade. Import and mix fill as required for grade

Mt. Diablo Blvd Sidewalk

Typical section C (46+00± to 51+80±)

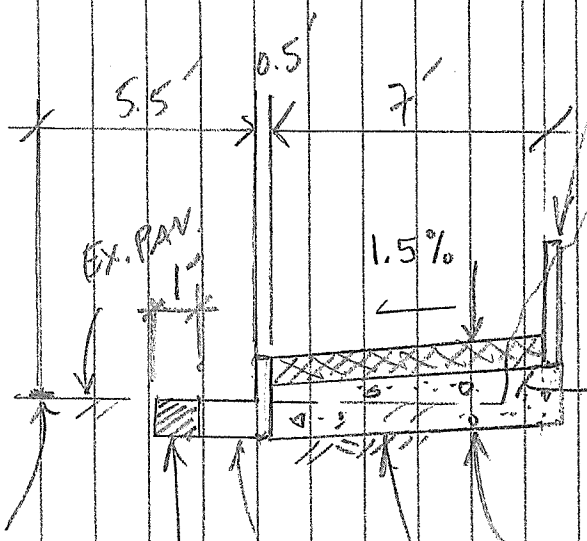
N.T.S.


Remove ex. AC Berm. Fill to Conform
Clear + Grub Vegetation to clear back of Sidewalk 2'
5.5'
0.5'
7'
1'
Ex. PSW
1.5%
4" PCC over 6" Min pulverized materials compacted to 95% Rel. compaction
Exist Bike Lane Line
New C+G
Pulverize ex. pavement to depth per spec. Excavate adjacent ground (if needed) to Required Grade for SW. Mix and Compact mat'l for SW Subgrade. Import and mix fill as required for grade
1'x 6" AC Conform pave

Mt. Diablo Blvd SW

Typical Section D
(STA 80± to Reservoir Drive)

N.T.S.


5.5'
0.5'
7'
8" PCC retaining curb
1.5%
Ex. Pav't
1'
Embankment
Excavate for SW construction
4" PCC SW over 6" min pulverized materials @ 95% Relative Compaction
Pulverize existing pavement to depth per spec
Excavate adjacent ground to required grade for SW. Mix and compact material for SW subgrade. Import and mix fill as required for grade.
Ex. Bike Lane Line
1"x6" AC Conform pave
New C&G